

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



State Dept. review completed

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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

MORNING PAPERS.

WEDNESDAY October 20th, 1948

The Palestinian war.

The Arabic press continues to treat the fighting between the Egyptian and Jewish forces on the Negov front as top story of the day. Special prominence is given to the naval and air battles between Egyptians and Jews, and reports of Egyptians successes are printed in red bold letters. There are no editorial comments on the actual fighting, but Al Misri and Al Ikhwan print short articles concerning the Security Council's order to cease fire.

Al Misri says that the Jews will likely violate the truce again and asks if the Arab League members will act in such event. The Arabs must plan from now the line of action they should pursue in the event of the Jews violating the truce so that they may not waste their time in unfruitful discussions, says the daily.

Al Ikhwan's article is headlined: "The funny truce". The daily says that the Russians have supplied the Jews with all kinds of arms and ammunitions. The Turks are equally as guilty as the Russians for they have supplied the Jews with ships. In their recent attack on the Egyptian positions at Negov the Jews used eighty tanks and 25 pounders. They also used a large number of fortresses and other heavy bombers. But the Egyptians succeeded in repulsing the attack and in inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. "The Security Council's decision to cease fire is really funny", says Al Ikhwan. "The Council blames the Jews for violating the truce, but at the same time blamed the Egyptians for repulsing the Jewish attacks. Is this decision not funny?".

Mr Ambassador's trip to the Levant.

Al Misri, Al Ahram, and Al Assas publish photographs showing His Excellency Mr Griffis chatting with children refugees during his trip to Syria and Lebanon.

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The North African question.

Al Misri reports that Secretary General of the Arab League Azzam Pasha called yesterday on Emir Abdul Korim, the Riff leader, to discuss with him questions pertaining to the North African case.

The daily says that the Arab League Council will discuss this question at its coming meeting (October 30th). "The Maghreb circles in Cairo received important reports from Al Maghreb which showed that America and England were extremely interested in that part of the world inasmuch as it is of vital strategic importance in the coming world war", says Al Misri. "The Americans and the British are establishing military bases in North Africa and 'feeling the pulse' of the inhabitants to find out if they can rely on their support when a third world war breaks out .

"The reports received by the Maghreb circles in Cairo stress the fact that the late President Roosevelt has promised the inhabitants of North Africa to help them secure their independence after the war. When war ended and the President passed away, Truman did not fulfil his predecessor's promises.

"The gentlemen who sent the reports in question to the Maghreb circles in Cairo voiced the opinion that the present time is the best time to secure the independence of North Africa because of the strained world situation, and that the question cannot be settled without the effective help and intervention of the Arab League. Hence the decision to examine the matter at the coming meeting of the Arab League Council."

Yemen recognizes the All-Palestine Government.

Al Kutla reports that Yemen has formally recognized the provisional Arab government of Palestine.

Egyptian politics.

The Arabic newspapers without exception are devoting maximum space to the rift between the Saadist and Liberal Constitutional parties of which the present Cabinet is composed.

The reports of the opposition press are of no particular interest but the Anti-Liberal campaign of the pro-government newspapers is indeed significant.

Akher Sa'a, the pro-government weekly devotes no less than two pages to an attack on Dr. Hoykal Pasha, President of the Senate and head of the Liberal Constitutional party. The weekly says that the gentleman wishes to embarrass

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the government to make it fall in the hope that he himself may become Prime Minister. Hoykal Pasha is annoyed because Nokrashi Pasha refused favours for Liberals, but he (Hoykal Pasha) is not so stupid as to fight the issue on personal bases. He pretends that the difference between his party and Nokrashi Pasha's party is due to the refusal of the present Prime Minister to appoint one of the two Liberals nominated by Hoykal Pasha (Ahmed Attia Pasha and Rashwan Mahfouz Pasha) to the vacant portfolio of Public Works, continues the weekly.

Akher Sa'a also publishes an article in which it severely censures Hoykal Pasha for stating to Al Zaman that he is in favour of Egypt resuming negotiations with Britain for treaty revision. The weekly charges that Hoykal Pasha has professed this "outrageous" viewpoint because he thinks that the British can help him become Prime Minister. The weekly concludes the article by saying that resumption of Anglo-Egyptian talks for treaty revision would be harmful to Egypt.

Parliamentary questions concerning the Jews of Egypt.

Akher Sa'a prints the following story inside a box and underlines the words: "We learned that some honourable members of the House of Deputies will ask the government why it failed so far to intern all the Jews of Egypt until the Palestinian war ends. Some of the deputies pointed out in their questions that when war broke out between the Axis and the Allies, the Egyptian authorities interned all German and Italian residents in Egypt in order to ensure the safety of Britain, Egypt's ally, which was at war with the Germans and Italians.

"To-day Egypt is at war with the Jews and Zionists. The Zionists have launched air-raids on Egyptian civilians, yet the Jews of Egypt continue to be free to spy, conspire, and send signals during the air-raids".

Akher Sa'a complains about anti-Egyptian propaganda in the French press.

Akher Sa'a translates into Arabic an article published in the Paris paper "France Soir" in which a Frenchman alleges that he was ill-treated by the Egyptians.

The article is headlined: "J'ai connu les prisons du Cairo. Un reportage de la bataille en Egypt". The writer alleges that he had his shoes cleaned outside the Cairo General post office and when he gave the shoe-shine boy P.T.2 the latter throw it on the pavement and asked for LE 2. The Frenchman refused to pay and was immediately accused by the boy of insulting King Farouk and the Egyptians. A policeman appeared on the scene and took the Frenchman to the police station where he was kept inside a dirty room for two days. Finally he was released, but he found that the money which

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was in his wallet had disappeared. When he asked the police officer where the money was, he was told that it was paid into the treasury as a fine. The writer concludes the alleged adventure by saying that he thought it wise not to ask the police officer how and when he was fined.

Akhor Sa'a comments on the story by saying that it is a lie from beginning to end and that France has no right to protest to the Egyptian government against uncomplimentary articles in the Egyptian press concerning the French if the French government allows such slander to be printed in the French press.

All Palestine government seeks
loan from Arab countries.

Al Ahram reports that the Finance Minister in the provisional Arab government of Palestine called on Secretary General of the Arab League yesterday to discuss with him the possibility of contracting a loan from the Arab countries for his government to the tune of LE 5,000,000.

Al Ahram's Baghdad correspondent reports that there was a government crisis in Iraq over Iraqi recognition of the Arab government of Palestine, but the crisis ended when Iraq formally recognised the government in question. There will be a Cabinet reshuffle in the near future, however, says the correspondent.

The fait accompli.

Al Ahram prints an editorial under the above heading in which it points out that the U.N. may adopt Bernadotte's recommendations because in its opinion partition is now a fait accompli. The daily then goes on to ask what is the use of having a Security Council and an International Court of Justice if the nations of the world have no respect for Justice and if they base their policy on recognizing faits accomplis only.
